

THERMAL GRADIENTS ACROSS AN ADVANCED LITHOGRAPHIC MASK" and before "Background of the Invention" insert the following therebetween as the first heading and first paragraph of the specification:

-- STATEMENT AS TO FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH

This invention was made with U.S. Government support under Agreement No. N00019-99-3-1366 awarded by the Naval Air Systems Command. The U.S. Government has certain rights in the invention. --

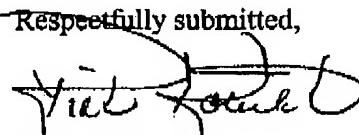
REMARKS

The specification is being amended to include a paragraph regarding federally sponsored research in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.77 (b)(3). Applicants submit that such paragraph does not introduce new matter into the specification.

Applicants respectfully request consideration by the Examiner and entry of the foregoing amendment.

Date: Feb. 8, 2004

Respectfully submitted,


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